

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A masonry block resulting from a splitting operation on a molded workpiece by at least one splitting assembly in a block splitter having a splitting line, the at least one splitting assembly including a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of the splitting line and positioned to engage the workpiece during the splitting operation, the masonry block comprising:

a block body including a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface extending between the top and bottom surfaces, a rear surface extending between the top and bottom surfaces, and side surfaces between the front and rear surfaces; a locator protrusion formed integrally with the block and disposed on the top or bottom surface thereof; the intersection of the front surface and the top surface defining an upper edge, and the intersection of the front surface and the bottom surface defining a lower edge; and the front surface and at least a portion of one of the upper edge and the lower edge are roughened as a result of the plurality of projections engaging the workpiece during the splitting operation.

2. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the block splitter includes a second splitting assembly with a plurality of projections disposed on the same side of the splitting line as the projections of the first splitting assembly, and wherein at least a portion of the upper edge and at least a portion of the lower edge of the block are roughened by the projections during the splitting operation.

3. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the at least one roughened upper edge or lower edge is rounded.

4. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein a portion of at least one of the side surfaces is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

5. The masonry block of claim 4, wherein a portion of each of the side surfaces is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

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6. The masonry block of claim 4, wherein the textured portion of the at least one side surface is adjacent the front surface.

7. The masonry block of claim 4, wherein the textured portion of the at least one side surface is the entire side surface.

8. The masonry block of claim 1, further including a radiused section connecting the front surface to at least one of the side surfaces.

9. The masonry block of claim 1, further including radiused sections connecting the front surface to both of the side surfaces.

10. The masonry block of claim 9, wherein each of said radiused sections is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

11. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is mottled.

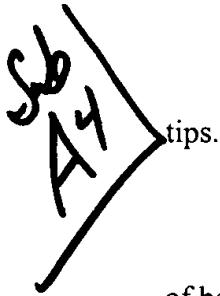
12. The masonry block of claim 11, wherein the mottling is produced by a plurality of colors in the material that forms the masonry block.

13. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the locator protrusion comprises a locator lip.

14. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the front surface is rounded when viewed from the side.

15. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections are cylindrically shaped.

16. The masonry block of claim 15, wherein the projections have rounded tips.



17. The masonry block of claim 15, wherein the projections have irregular tips.

18. The masonry block of claim 15, wherein the projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 to about 1.25 inches.

19. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections comprise plates.

20. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the projections are pyramidal in shape.

21. The masonry block of claim 1, wherein the splitting assembly includes a splitting blade aligned with the splitting line, and wherein said projections have a tip that is positioned about 3/8 inch above or below the top of the blade.

22. A wall formed from a plurality of masonry blocks according to claim 1.

23. The wall of claim 22, wherein a plurality of different sizes of the masonry blocks are used.

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24. A masonry block formed from a molded workpiece, comprising:
a block body including a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface extending between the top and bottom surfaces, a rear surface extending between the top and bottom surfaces, and side surfaces between the front and rear surfaces; and wherein a portion of at least two of said surfaces is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

25. The masonry block of claim 24, wherein the front surface is roughened as a result of splitting the workpiece and at least a portion of each side surface is textured.

26. The masonry block of claim 25, wherein the textured side surface portions are adjacent the front surface.

27. The masonry block of claim 25, wherein the textured side surface portions are the entire side surfaces.

28. The masonry block of claim 24, wherein the rear surface is textured as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

29. A masonry block that is produced from a molded workpiece that is split in a block splitter having a splitting line, said block splitter comprising a first splitting assembly that includes a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of the splitting line, said projections being positioned so that they engage the workpiece during the splitting operation, whereby the masonry block includes at least one irregular split edge and surface produced by said first splitting assembly.

30. The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the block splitter comprises a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, and wherein said second splitting assembly includes a plurality of projections positioned so that they engage the workpiece during the splitting operation whereby the masonry block includes an opposed pair of irregular edges.

31. The masonry block of claim 29, wherein a surface of the masonry block includes a textured portion as a result of the action of the workpiece-forming mold.

32. The masonry block of claim 31, wherein the textured portion is on a side surface of the masonry block adjacent a front surface thereof.

33. The masonry block of claim 29, further including a locator protrusion formed integrally on a bottom surface of the block.

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34. The masonry block of claim 33, wherein the locator protrusion comprises a lip.

35. The masonry block of claim 29, wherein the irregular split surface is mottled.

36. The masonry block of claim 35, wherein the mottling is produced by a plurality of colors in the material that forms the masonry block.

37. A method of producing a masonry block having at least one irregular split edge and surface, comprising:

providing a masonry block splitter having a splitting line with which a masonry workpiece to be split is to be aligned, the block splitter including a first splitting assembly that includes a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of the splitting line, said projections being positioned so that they engage the workpiece during the splitting operation;

locating a masonry workpiece in the masonry block splitter so that the workpiece is aligned with the splitting line; and

splitting the workpiece into at least two pieces using the first splitting assembly.

38. The method of claim 37, further including the step of providing the masonry block splitter with a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly and operating in concert therewith, the second splitting assembly including a plurality of projections disposed on same side of the splitting line as the projections of the first splitting assembly, said projections being positioned so that they engage the workpiece during the splitting operation whereby the masonry block includes an opposed pair of irregular split edges.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the first and second splitting assemblies are provided with a plurality of projections disposed on each side of the splitting line.

40. A masonry block that is produced from a molded workpiece that is split in a block splitter having a first splitting blade with a cutting edge and blade surfaces extending

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away from the cutting edge at acute angles and which are engageable with the workpiece during the splitting operation, whereby the masonry block includes at least one irregular split edge and surface produced by said first splitting blade.

41. The masonry block of claim 40, wherein the block splitter includes a second splitting blade opposed to the first splitting blade, and wherein the second splitting blade includes a cutting edge and blade surfaces extending away from the cutting edge at acute angles and which are engageable with the workpiece during the splitting operation whereby the masonry block includes an opposed pair of irregular edges.

42. The masonry block of claim 41, wherein the acute angles of the surfaces on the first and second splitting blades are preferably between about 0 degrees and about 30 degrees.

43. A splitting blade assembly for use in a block splitter comprising:
a splitting blade; and
a plurality of projections mounted on said splitting blade on at least one side thereof, said projections and said splitting blade are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby said projections and said blade move simultaneously during the splitting operation.

44. The splitting blade assembly of claim 43, including a plurality of projections mounted on each side of said splitting blade.

45. The splitting blade assembly of claim 44, wherein said splitting blade includes a cutting edge and blade surfaces extending away from the cutting edge at acute angles, said projections are mounted on said blade surfaces.

46. The splitting blade assembly of claim 43, wherein said projections are adjustable relative to said splitting blade.

47. The splitting blade assembly of claim 43, wherein said projections are cylindrically shaped.

48. The splitting blade assembly of claim 47, wherein said projections have rounded tips.

49. The splitting blade assembly of claim 47, wherein said projections have irregular tips.

50. The splitting blade assembly of claim 47, wherein said projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 to about 1.25 inches.

51. The splitting blade assembly of claim 43, wherein said projections comprise plates.

52. The splitting blade assembly of claim 43, wherein said projections are pyramidal in shape.

53. The splitting blade assembly of claim 43, wherein said projections have a tip that is positioned about 3/8 inch above or below the top of said splitting blade.

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